



Inside Towers

Monday, March 28, 2016

Volume 4 | Issue 61

Inside Towers is proud to introduce a new series that will profile the men and women who are the backbone of the tower industry. Today's inaugural edition features Warriors 4 Wireless, the wireless industry's veteran training program with a spotlight on December 2015 graduate, Joshua Thebeau. Thebeau was discharged in October 2015 after serving four years as a Cavalry Scout in the U.S. Army. Today's profile was written by Inside Towers special correspondent Benjamin Horvath.

[Wireless Training Program W4W Offers Opportunities to America's Veterans](#)

By Benjamin Horvath



Far too often, the American public hears news reports on the struggles of our nation's veterans. Veterans suffer from chronically high unemployment numbers, high rates of post-traumatic stress disorder, and a disproportionately high number of suicides; just a few of the challenges that too many veterans have encountered during the transition from military to civilian life.

But such challenges and difficulties provide the opportunity for goodness to show. Case in point, the wireless industry's veteran training program Warriors 4 Wireless.

Founded in 2012, the program aims to shrink the rate of jobless veterans. As the wireless industry booms—with an estimated 8,000 to 10,000 currently unfilled tower technician jobs—the American military is currently undergoing one of its largest reductions of force in recent history. Warriors 4 Wireless' mission is to train veterans for these open positions by working closely with tower companies nationwide. [Continue Reading](#)

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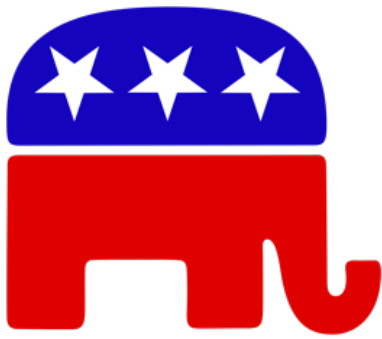
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AT&T Prepares for the Grand Old Party in Cleveland in July

Conventions for political parties happen only every four years and they are the equivalent of a Super Bowl. AT&T is suiting up for the big GOP gathering in Cleveland in July, by bulking up its networks to the tune of nearly \$125 million.



While the data upgrades are being performed specifically for the convention, which is expected to attract 50,000 people, much of the infrastructure will be left behind, reports Cleveland.com. AT&T said planned improvements would permanently boost cell service and data capacity at Quicken Loans Arena and the FirstMerit Convention Center of Cleveland, the two main convention sites. And AT&T also

will triple its 4G capacity throughout downtown Cleveland and also will boost higher-speed LTE coverage at 165 sites, including restaurants, hotels and at the street level, the news site reported. [Continue Reading](#)

Telus Plans \$2 Billion Communications Infrastructure Investment



Quebec-based telecommunications company TELUS is making a huge investment in its growth. The company is investing \$2 billion in new communications infrastructure in the province through 2020, with \$340 million in 2016 going toward fiber optic wireless service in homes and businesses.

TELUS will continue building new wireless sites; extend 4G LTE into Montreal; connect 10,000 homes in rural Quebec, businesses and industrial parks directly to fiber optic; continue to roll out Optik TV, as well as invest in enhancing its service while adding new content through television apps like Netflix and Tou.tv, *FierceTelecom* reports.

The company will also continue its sustained investment in Internet-connected devices to promote the Internet of Things; invest in areas like advanced analytics, cloud-based security services and integrated security solutions; expand the capacity of its advanced Internet data center in Rimouski; expand its cloud portfolio; continue investing in TELUS Health; support for grassroots organizations: by donating \$4.5 million to hundreds of local organizations; and continue to take part in TELUS Days of Giving.

TELUS currently has 12.5 million customer connections, including 8.5 million wireless subscribers.

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Tower Ticker

March 25, 2016 ~ Closed for Good Friday



Zoning & Moaning

Astoria, OR Will Get Verizon Tower After All

Astoria's city council previously rejected a 150-foot monopole at Shively Park, but it looks like they've reconsidered a new as yet to be determined location. At its Monday, March 21, meeting, the council, the city and Verizon took steps to move an older tower away from Coxcomb Hill and closer to Reservoir Ridge.

According to *The Daily Astorian*, Verizon's new lease agreement will include serving wireless customers "through the new tower, equipment atop the Astor Hotel building and another new tower outside city limits." A Verizon representative who attended the meeting agreed to the new location outside the city limits, with a one-year lease extension at the Coxcomb Hill site. The new site has not yet been determined, but once it is, the Coxcomb Hill tower will come down. Lease arrangements for the new site also will be determined at a later date, but the city council voted for the current arrangement in a unanimous decision.

This may be a huge sigh of relief for South Slope residents, who according to the newspaper, have been battling with city staff, the city council, Verizon, the Friends of the Astoria Column historical group and local forester Ron Zilli, for "years" about the location of a tower within a historic park.



International

2015 Towers Sale Boosts China Telecom Results

The one-time sale of its towers and related assets last year has pumped up China telecom's profits by 13.4 percent to about \$606 million for 2015, according to *lightreading.com*. The company reported that its sales for the year also increased by 2.1 percent or by \$50.9 billion. The carrier is the smallest of China's big three mobile companies. China Telecom Corp. (NYSE: CHA) performed better than its two competitors, market leader China Mobile Ltd. (NYSE: CHL) and struggling China Unicom Ltd. (NYSE: CHU) which reported a loss of 14.26 million mobile customers in 2015, giving it 252.32 million in December, including 44.16 million 4G users. [Continue Reading](#)

Stouffville Ontario Residents Reject Tower Construction

Residents in the Southern Ontario, Canada town of Stouffville are assembling to battle against the construction of a proposed 102-foot tower in a new subdivision of homes.

The tower's location has jolted unhappy residents into action, as they express concern over the health risks associated with a high frequency radio signal in such close proximity to their homes, reported area news site *yorkregion.com*. Property values are also a concern for residents and the site said the 102-foot tower had been described as an "eyesore" that stands in plain view from many homes nearby.

Campaigns against towers are not new to the area. Canadian media giant Rogers Communications tried to build a tower near the Stouffville train station two years ago and were rebuffed by community protests.

“We understand there are areas in Stouffville that don’t have great coverage,” said resident Holly Freer, who lives within 1,640 feet of the proposed tower. “Because of the risks, we don’t think this location is optimal.”

Italian Telco Needs More Time To Consider Competitor Acquisition

Telecom Italia needs more time to make a decision regarding the planned sale of a stake in the tower division Infrastructure Wireless Italiana (INWIT), board member Tarak Ben Ammar told *Telegraphy.com* last week. A consortium of Spain’s Cellnex Telecom and F2i of Italy entered a binding offer for a 45% stake in the unit, while EI Towers entered a rival bid for just under 30% stake in INWIT shortly afterward.

P3 Engineering Ready for Olympics, Expands to Sao Paulo, Brazil

Just in time for the 2016 Summer Olympics, New Jersey-based global consulting, engineering and testing services firm P3 Group, announced it is expanding its telecommunications services in Latin America with a new office in Sao Paulo to support exploding growth in Brazil’s \$64 billion telecommunications market.

Located in the Sao Jose dos Campos area of Sao Paulo, P3 said its team would target the growing testing and network optimization needs of Brazil’s mobile operators and device manufacturers. The office will be supported by experienced device, network and application engineers who conduct functional and performance tests of wireless devices from development to launch. They will travel extensively throughout Latin America in specialized test vehicles, and on foot in key business and public venues, to evaluate device function, service quality and usability from the end user’s perspective.

“Sao Paulo is one of the leading technology and research centers in Latin America and an important hub for serving all of Brazil,” said Dirk Bernhardt, CEO of P3 communications, Inc. “With the Summer Olympic Games less than five months away, Brazil’s mobile network operators are challenged to prepare for the onslaught of athletes, organizers and media who will expect reliable connections and 4G speeds. Developing and implementing innovative solutions to complex technology challenges is what we do best.”

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Carrier Coverage

Frontier Communications’ New Frontier – Verizon’s Phone, Internet and TV

Frontier Communications will take over Verizon’s wireline phone, Internet, and TV networks in California, Florida, and Texas on April 1. The deal, worth \$10.54 billion, was announced last year and has finally received all regulatory approvals

needed to complete the transaction. Verizon's wireless infrastructure and customer are not included in the agreement.

The data involved in the transfer has been steadily exchanging hands over the course of the past year. Mike Flynn, Frontier's president for the Southeast region, was quoted in the Tampa Tribune. He said, "Frontier takes the customer experience very, very seriously — it's our No. 1 mission. The challenge for us is going to be making the transfer seamless and unnoticeable, but if we do have a bump, that we address it quickly." [Continue Reading](#)

AT&T Has Brief Alaska Outage



at&t

A week ago, *Inside Towers* reported a massive Verizon Wireless outage in Southern California that lasted for several hours on March 18. The cause was not known but service was restored to customers within four hours. Alaska Dispatch reported that the AT&T network in Anchorage, AK went on the fritz March 23, for several hours preventing subscribers from making outgoing calls including to 911. AT&T customers in Juneau and the Mat-Su also reported the outage which was resolved in several hours.

The newspapers reported that during the outage, Anchorage police advised anyone who needed to call 911 to use a landline or a cell phone on another network until the problem was fixed.

AT&T director of communications Andy Colley said that the issue began Wednesday afternoon and affected wireless service in Anchorage and "some additional cell sites in the state." It was not immediately clear what caused the outage.

T-Mobile – Subscribers With 'Amazing' Benefits



Regular customers to any subscription business generally get some sort of special spiff and T-Mobile has added a new wrinkle to its good customer program. On Friday, subscribers to the carrier were given a three-day jump on tickets to see Nicki Minaj headline at the new T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas when it opens April 7. All others, characterized by T-Mobile as "non-carrier users," had to wait over the weekend to be able to buy tickets beginning today. Billed by music publication VIBE as the "Get On Your Knees" tour, Minaj will appear with special guest Ariana Grande.

Sounding like a guy campaigning for a job in Washington, T-Mobile President/CEO John Legere said "What better way to open this amazing arena than with TWO amazing artists — Nicki Minaj and Ariana Grande — and a few thousand customers and friends?"

For more information about tickets to the opening concert, go [here](#).

David Jackson, Owner

By Eleanor Snite



When David Jackson launched his Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (aka drone), business at the beginning of 2016, safety was the major issue he had on his mind.

“The whole drone operation is a safety factor for the climbers heading up the towers,” Jackson said. “Putting the eyes in the sky on the tower top without putting a climber at risk is the major reason I started Quest Aerial Image.”

Drones can be used to check sites to look for issues that could possibly be a problem or obstruction before employees climb the towers. The drone can provide high-definition videos or still photography, depending on the job.

Jackson said a drone can be used to find punch items such as jumpers that aren't supported correctly, grounds that haven't been completed, weatherproofing that was not done and much more. After steel work is done, the drone can go from top to bottom to inspect it and photos can be taken.

“The drone can zoom in really well,” Jackson said. “On the other hand, the drone can take a much broader picture of what's going on up there. And it can take laps around the tower at different elevations and get full all around video on what work has been done.”

Jackson is also planning to do night flights in the future. He said the thermal imaging of the drone can see up close the areas that have power outages.

Quest Aerial Image has been granted approval from the FAA to operate a commercial drone on towers up to 200 feet maximum, and Jackson has submitted papers to the FAA to work on towers as high as 500 feet and more.

The company is headquartered in Gorham, Maine, and primarily has clients in the Northeast.

For more information, click [here](#).



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Tower Shot



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